

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

Inductive proof can be an improvement to bounded verification. Forward and backward inductive proof methods are disclosed, which can improve the process of verifying properties of circuit designs. An inductive set of one or more states includes states passing a first property of a circuit design. States of the inductive set passing at least the first property of the circuit design are transitioning by at least one step in a forward direction, resulting in transitioned states. It is determined if the transitioned states of the inductive set pass at least the first property of the circuit design. At least the transitioning and the determining are repeated, until at least, the determining results in the transitioned states of the inductive set passing at least the first property of the circuit design.